

Express Mail No. EV 410 060 132 US
Application No. 09/765,924
Reply to Office action of October 21, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-9 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. Claims 18 and 19 are amended herein to correct an inadvertent error, so claims 18 and 19 now depend from claim 17 instead of claim 15.

II. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9 are rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Adams Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,480,196) in view of Iwata et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,752,208) and Shade (U.S. Pat. No. 5,842,727).

By this Amendment and Response, claims 1-9 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are now moot.

III. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter in Claims 17-19

Claims 17-19 remain pending in the application, with claim 17 being an independent claim.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 17-19 are allowed.

IV. Conclusion

For at least the various reasons discussed herein, it is believed that claims 17-19 are in form for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

This Amendment and Response is filed in response to the October 21, 2003 Office action, making this filing due on or before Wednesday, January 21, 2004. Because this Amendment and Response is being filed within two months of the final Office action mailing date, in the event a notice of allowance is not forthcoming, an Advisory Action is respectfully requested. It is believed no fees are due with respect to filing of this Amendment and Response; however, if any fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account number 04-1415.

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Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

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By Lee R. Osman
Lee R. Osman
Attorney Reg. No. 38,260
PH: (303) 629-3400
Customer No. 20686

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